

Sacramento River Temperature Task Group (SRTTG) Meeting
Thursday, October 27, 2016 | 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

MEETING SUMMARY

Participants

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|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Don Bader, USBR | • Joe Pisciotto, CDFW |
| • Matt Brown, USFWS | • Jeff Rieker, USBR |
| • Miles Daniels, NMFS | • Jason Roberts, CDFW |
| • Eric Danner, NMFS | • John Rueth, USFWS |
| • Kyle DeJulio, Yurok Tribe | • Jim Smith, USFWS |
| • Ken Emanuel, SWRCB | • Stacey Smith, USBR |
| • Randi Field, USBR | • Brycen Swart, NMFS |
| • Robert Franklin, Hoopa Tribe | • Thuy Washburn, USBR |
| • John Hannon, USBR | • Mike Wright, USBR |
| • Michael Hendrick, USBR | • Garwin Yip, NMFS |
| • Josh Israel, USBR | • Paul Zedonis, USBR |
| • Liz Kiteck, USBR | |
| • Duane Linander, CDFW | Facilitation + Note-Taking: |
| • Ron Milligan, USBR | • Briana Seapy, Kearns & West |

Action Items:

1. CDFW will circulate to the SRTTG the most recent redd data relevant to the proposed North Cypress Side Channel Restoration Project.
2. USBR will compile the SRTTG annual report and distribute a draft version of the report to the SRTTG for review with sufficient time to submit comments before the anticipated December 8, 2016 public meeting.

Key Discussion Topics with Summary of Outcomes and Agreements

Fishery Update

USFWS reported on brood stock collection for the Livingston Stone National Fish Hatchery, noting that the juvenile winter-run are expected to be released at the end of January and the beginning of February.

USFWS reported that the winter run juvenile monitoring estimate as of October 21 was 363,832. This is the highest number of juveniles recorded for the same time period over the last three years, and USFWS expects to see an increase of juveniles in correspondences with fresh river inflow within the next week. In contrast with the last two years, the female population count is comparatively low as is fecundity. The egg to fry survival will rate will be calculated in November. The bi-weekly counts are

posted to the USFWS website at https://www.fws.gov/redbluff/rbdd_biweekly_final.html CDFW noted that winter-run redd 725 is covered by 2 inches of water and is expected to emerge on November 14. No fall run redds have been dewatered at the current flow rate of 5,500 cfs. CDFW is continuing the carcass survey for fall run.

USFWS reported on spring run Chinook salmon surveys in Clear Creek, noting that numbers are low – approximately one-third of last year’s numbers based on video stream – and the majority of fish have been observed downstream of the temperature compliance point at the IGO gage where there is a higher likelihood of increased temperature-dependent mortality. The low return of hatchery strays to Clear Creek is possibly attributable to the trucking of fish. USFWS also reported that the number of adult fall run returning to Clear Creek is significantly lower than in recent years, and that the spring run redd count is approximately 22 which represents an estimated 50% success rate in female spawning. A similar trend was observed in Mill Creek in which many fish died before they spawned, possibly due to low flows at Wilkins Slough. Battle Creek also shows a 50% spawning rate suggesting up to a 50% pre-spawn mortality rate.

Hydrology & Operations Update

(See the October 27 Meeting Agenda and Handouts for reference materials:

<http://www.usbr.gov/mp/cvo/vungvari/sactemprpt.pdf>.)

USBR reviewed system water and air temperatures, 7 DADM trends, Lake Shasta isothermal baths, Lake Shasta cold water pool volume, and the Shasta TCD configuration. USBR noted that the current water temperatures are meeting the temperature compliance criterion, but that on October 23 there was a temperature exceedance at CCR when the 7 DADM temperature exceeded 55.0° F. The Shasta TCD was adjusted by opening a side gate on October 23 to address the temperature exceedance. USBR noted that Ball’s Ferry is tracking below the 56.0° F daily average temperature criterion. Lake Shasta isothermal baths appear normal, and surface temperatures have cooled. 270,000 AF of cold water storage – water below 49.0° F – remains in Lake Shasta. USBR also indicated that a series of flow cuts were initiated on October 22 to decrease Keswick releases to 5,500 cfs, and that USBR does not anticipate further TCD operations, as system water typically stays below 56.0° F naturally after October.

CDFW reported that as of October 26, two inches of water are flowing over redd 725 which is projected to emerge on November 14. CDFW added that they would not advocate for any further flow reductions before November 14. USBR does not expect additional flow cuts before the November 14 but commented that a conversation about continued reduction of flows may be warranted after November 14. [According to correspondence regarding USBR’s August modifications of the Temperature Management Plan, fisheries agencies’ concurrence was contingent upon flows being maintained at 5,500 cfs through the end of January].

North Cypress Side Channel Restoration Project

USBR briefed the SRTTG on the proposed Cypress Side Channel Restoration Project (see *20161027_SRTTG_Handouts* for site activity areas). Project leads are targeting mid-November to initiate excavation work that would benefit from reduced flows. The precise flow reduction necessary for construction success is unknown, but project leads requested a decrease from the current 5,500 cfs to 4,000 cfs for a minimum of three days [up to a preferred period of two to three weeks to accommodate the entire construction period]. Flows higher than 4,000 cfs would pose a challenge to construction. If no flow reduction is granted, or if a partial flow reduction between 4,000 and 5,500 is

granted, project leads would attempt the work and ask for an additional reduction if construction was not found to be feasible.

CDFW expressed concern that 4,000 cfs would likely result in de-watering of fall-run redds and negatively impact commercial fisheries. NMFS asked if there was certainty that exposure of any part of a redd would compromise egg survivability (e.g., does interstitial flow afford eggs sufficient diffusion of waste and dissolved oxygen?). SRTTG participants were uncertain of the answer. The SRTTG suggested that next steps should entail: 1) quantification of the potential number of redds compromised by the requested flow reduction, 2) consultation with Golden Gate Salmon Association, and 3) discussion within the SWIM team. USBR indicated that if the project does not initiate construction now, it will not entirely compromise the project. CDFW offered to distribute the most recent and relevant redd data to the SRTTG.

General Discussion

The SRTTG determined that there is no need for the group to reconvene in 2016. USBR noted that it is working to develop the SRTTG's 2016 Annual Report and that there is an annual reporting public meeting tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, December 6 at which time a public-facing, preliminary version of the 2016 report should be compiled. The SRTTG agreed to review a draft version of the 2016 Annual Report and submit comments in advance of December 6.

Next Meeting

The SRTTG will not hold any additional meetings in 2016.